Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the "U.S. patent documents" cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 28, 2002, as acknowledged by the signed forms PTO-1449. Applicants respectfully note that the Examiner has not considered the "other documents" listed on the Information Disclosure Statements filed on February 1, 2002 and May 28, 2002 because they allegedly are of improper format. Applicants will resubmit these documents to the USPTO in proper format for consideration.

Regarding the specification, Applicants note the Examiner's preference for capitalizing the trademark UNIX throughout the specification and for defining the acronym "IT" upon first use. First, regarding the acronym "IT", Applicants have amended the first page of the specification to define the acronym "IT" upon first use. Second, regarding the use of the term UNIX, Applicants submit that the only use of this trademark occurs on the first page, where it is illustrated in all capitals and defined generically as one example of an operating system. As a result, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw this objection to the specification.

Claims 1-48 are all the claims pending in this application. Selected claims are amended to clarify and more particularly indicate the claimed subject matter. No new matter is included. The amendments are made for the purpose of expediting prosecution and are not made to overcome claim rejections. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the rejected claims are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing remarks.

Claim Objections

Claims 7, 47, and 48 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form. Applicants have rewritten these claims in independent form to overcome the objection and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw this objection.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1-5,7, 9-12, 14-19, 21-25, 27-32, 34-38, 40-45, 47 and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Papadopoulos (U.S. 6,099,320). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the following basis.

Independent claims 1, 21, 34, and 47 recite the feature of enabling a single computer to perform selected exercises that are associated with one or more virtual machines wherein each virtual machine is associated with a different operating system, among other things. Independent claims 14, 27, 40 and 48 recite the feature of a computer system having one ore more classroom exercises and each classroom exercise is associated with one or more virtual machines, wherein each virtual machine is associated with a different operating system, among other things. Independent claim 7 recites the feature of a virtual machine platform that enables multiple operating system environments to run concurrently using hardware resources of the classroom computer system, among other things. The present invention is directed to overcoming the disadvantages of conventional systems that require several computers to run applications supported by different operating systems (see the specification at page 1, lines 20-27). In an exemplary embodiment, the invention provides an exercise launcher that automatically configures a classroom computer to perform selected exercises on a single "real" machine (see the specification at page 2, lines 20-22). In another exemplary embodiment, the invention provides a virtual machine platform that allows multiple operating system environments to run concurrently using the same hardware resources of a computer system (see the specification at page 8, lines 5-6).

Papadopoulos is directed to computer-based training system where the author is not required to be aware of the underlying operating system of the computer or the details of the interfacing between the authoring computer and the recording tools (see Papadopoulos, col. 2, lines 25-31). Specifically, Papadopoulos discloses that an author is allowed to access the underlying operating system for finding files or other administrative functions, wherein one implementation uses Windows NT® (see Papadopoulos, col. 7, lines 2-8). In contrast, the claimed invention is directed to enabling a single computer or computer system to provide the user with several exercises that require the user to have an understand of various operating systems. Thus, Papadopoulos is deficient at least because it fails to disclose a single computer that is able to perform selected exercises associated with one or more virtual machines wherein *each virtual machine is associated with a different operating system.*

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Since Papadopoulos neither discloses nor suggests the invention claimed in independent claims 1, 7, 14, 21, 27, 34, 40, 47, and 48, these claims clearly are not anticipated by Papadopoulos. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-5, 9-12, 15-19, 22-25, 28-32, 35-38, and 41-45 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency. For at least the reasons provided above, reconsideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 13, 20, 26, 33, 39, and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Papadopoulos in view of Nowlin, Jr. (U.S. 5,953,536). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the following basis.

Claims 6, 13, 20, 26, 33, 39, and 46 depend indirectly from corresponding independent claims 1, 7, 14, 21, 27, 34, and 40, and therefore include the features of these independent claims are recited above. The Examiner acknowledges that Papadopoulos is deficient because it does not disclose a suspended state file (see page 7 of the August 27, 2003 office action). The Examiner relies on Nowlin, Jr. to overcome this deficiency. Nowlin, Jr. is directed to a software implemented tool for monitoring CPU power usage in a personal computer system. Assuming, *arguendo*, that Nowlin, Jr. in fact discloses a suspended file state, Papadopoulos and Nowlin, Jr. remain deficient, both alone and in combination, because they fail to teach or suggest the features of the independent claims as discussed above.
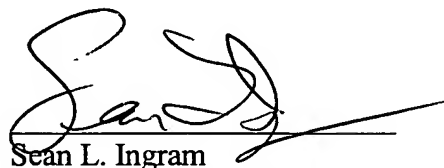
In view of the foregoing differences between the independent claims and the cited art, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness based on Papadopoulos in view of Nowlin, Jr. As a result, dependent claims 6, 13, 20, 26, 33, 39, and 46 are believed to be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from corresponding ones of allowable independent claims 1, 7, 14, 21, 27, 34, and 40.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference or interview would advance prosecution of this application in any manner, the undersigned attorney stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

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Respectfully submitted,

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